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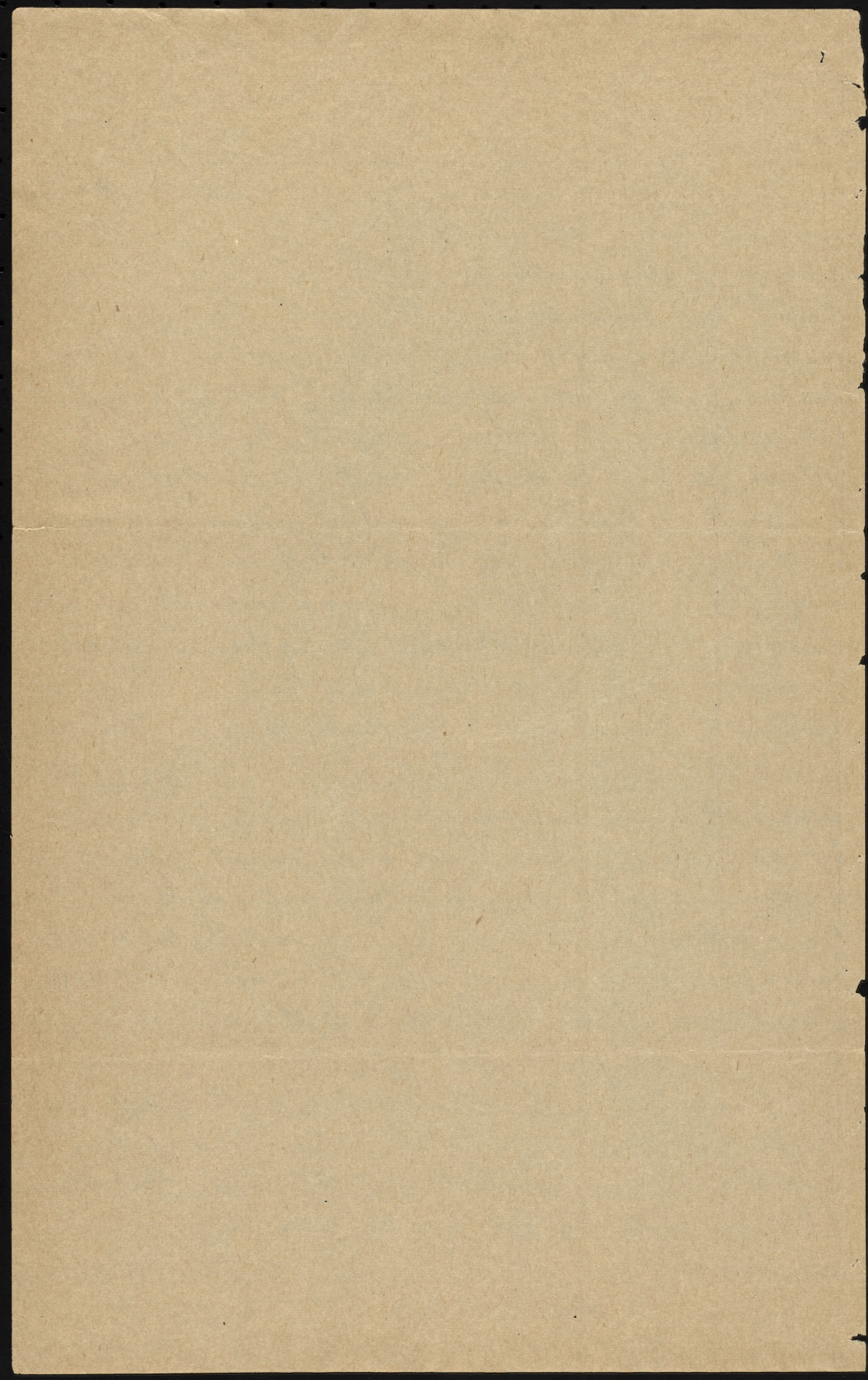
Paris, 30 Rue d'Antin, July 25, 1847

My dear friends May

Your very delightful and most interesting letter has too long remained unanswered; but it is not too late to thank you for it, although it may be to apologize for the delay. The truth is, that what with home correspondence, and the necessity of answering multitudinous notes and letters, and the prolonged fatigue of the journey from London to Scotland, (via Manchester and Newcastle-on-Tyne) and back again, and attendance upon parties and meetings, and sight-seeing in every direction, and a procrastinating dislike of the use of the pen, and many other hindrances, I have been obliged to abandon almost all hope of writing to any of my friends in the United States during my absence.

I felt much relieved in mind to learn from your letter, that the noble company of friends and co-workers who so kindly came to give George Thompson and myself their fraternal farewell at the time of our embarkation, made so little of the drizzling rain they had to encounter during their excursion down the harbor. At least one of their number has since been called from earth, it may be to receive the greetings of loved ones in Spirit-land; I allude to my very early and attached friend Isaac Winslow. It was owing exclusively to his liberality that I was enabled to publish my "Thoughts on African Colonization" in 1832. I am shocked to hear that he died in an Insane Asylum at Augusta, Me. He was at the funeral of our lamented friend Thankful Southwick, at Grantville, a few days before I left for Europe, and seemed to be in remarkably good condition at his advanced age. His memory is blessed

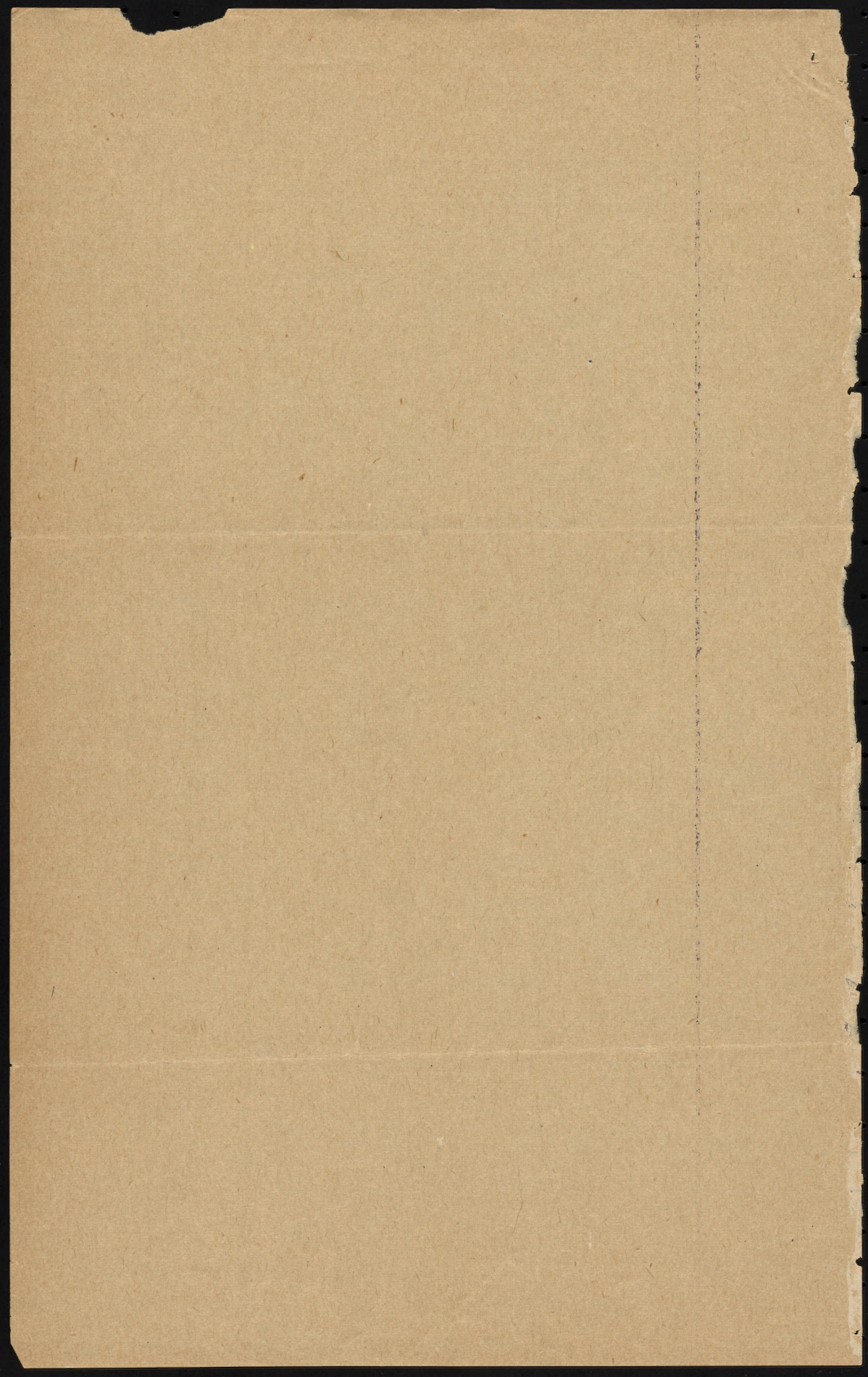
I have endeavored to keep you posted as to my movements and reception meetings, by sending you sundry newspapers along my route. Had I chosen to accept them, I could have had welcome public greetings in every considerable town in Great Britain; but I came over for no such purpose, and unfeignedly shrink from all such manifestations. I could not, however, without almost seeming affectation, decline the breakfast at St James's Hall in London, and the similar ovations at Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Glasgow; though I felt very foolish and very much out of my element on each occasion, in consequence of so many compliments having been showered up on me. In no instance did I make the slightest preparation as to what response I should make, except penning down impromptu one or two points at St James's Hall; and, indeed, it would have been useless for me to have done so, for my memory is like a sieve, and cannot retain half a dozen consecutive sentences or propositions. It was, therefore, most confounding to me to be forced to speak under such circumstances, especially before such select and intelligent assemblies; and I read with some feelings of chagrin and mortification what I said in so rambling a manner, especially as the reporters for the press made terrible botch work of my utterances. Some of their blunders were equally comical and atrocious. Unfortunately I had no opportunity, even in a single instance, to make any revision; and it was useless afterward to attempt to give a correct version. If you had been present, you



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would have been abundantly satisfied that it was no formal demonstration of personal respect, but a spontaneous outburst of warm appreciation and high enthusiasm, the all-pervading spirit being peace and good will towards the United States. The St. James's affair was indeed very remarkable, on the score of talent, character, and numbers. I regret to hear that Earl Russell's exceedingly creditable speech on the occasion was characterized by Mr. Phillips, in the Anti-Slavery Standard, as "maudlin talk - point to no point!" This is his estimate of a man's confession of having been wholly in the wrong, and President Lincoln entirely in the right in his treatment of the great rebellion. Nothing is more rare - not even "the gold of Ophir" - than such a frank confession of error and misapprehension from the lips of a distinguished statesman like Lord John Russell; and it is very painful to me to see Mr. P. so lacking in magnanimity in his reference to this confession. It would very much redound to his credit if he had the grace to imitate so noble an example.

The presentation to me of the "freedom of the city" by the Lord Provost and Magistracy of Edinburgh was a notable mark of respect, taking me utterly by surprise. It has been rarely conferred, and is made a great deal of in the city. It is rather curious that the person who preceded me in receiving it was Prince Alfred, Lord Palmerston preceding him. It was given to the illustrious John Hampden. You [see] therefore, that different considerations lead to its bestowment. It was most worthily given to George Thompson several years ago. Of course, it possesses no interest or



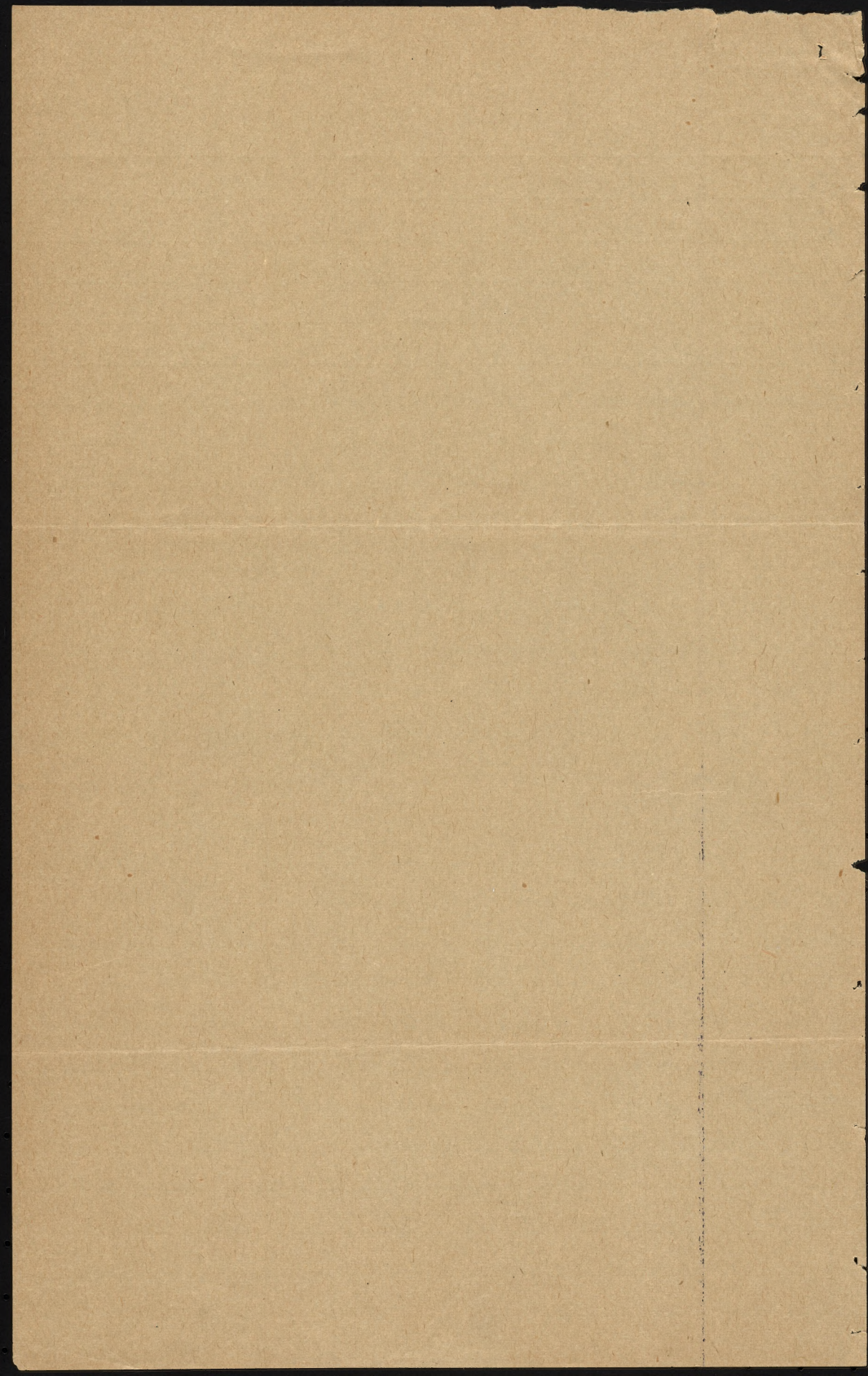
value to me beyond its being a high official recognition of the rectitude and grandeur of the Anti-Slavery movement in the United States, and through me, a vindication of American abolitionists generally. Believing it to have been the best judgment that could have been rendered in the case, I was very glad to hear that the Court had decided to give Mr. Jackson's bequest entirely to the New England Freedmen's Aid Commission, notwithstanding Mr. Phillips's strenuous efforts to the contrary. It was a curious point that he made, that not a single daily paper in New York printed an entire speech of mine delivered in Brooklyn! As if it could reasonably have been expected, or furnished any ground for complaint! When he stated that I and my friends had to go to the Standard to get it printed in full, he was wholly inaccurate, and did me a positive wrong; for I neither made, nor thought of making, any such request of the Standard. You will recollect that Aaron M. Powell presided on the occasion. As we were leaving the platform, he asked leave to print my lecture in the Standard, without abridgment. I told him that I had already promised my manuscript to the Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle (who was present,) - but gave him permission to get it, if he chose, in case only an abridgment of it appeared in the columns of that paper. As that proved to be the case, he accordingly got the manuscript, and printed it in the Standard of his own motion. run on

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I am sure Aaron will confirm every word I have said about it. But it was a foreign and most ridiculous issue to have been made on the occasion.

Fanny and Frank have been with me in all my journeyings. We lost our projected tour to the Scottish Highlands, in consequence of bad weather. At Edinburgh, my dear friend Elizabeth Pease Nichol took us readily to her heart and home, and left nothing undone for our comfort and enjoyment. In Glasgow we had "a right good time" with William Smeal, Andrew Paton, and the Anderssons, and found them all well except Catharine Paton. On our return to London, Mrs. Estlin (fearing she should have no other opportunity of seeing us) kindly came all the way from Bristol, and spent several days with us. She has had some thoughts of making a visit to the United States, but shrinks from going on account of our hot air furnaces, the dry heat of which she thinks would be unendurable, if not perilous in her case, as she is easily affected about the lungs. It is not very improbable, however, that she and Eliza Wigham will be tempted to cross over next May or June. I strongly solicited Mrs. Nichol to do the same thing; but there is some trouble with her heart, and she is afraid to make the experiment. I have also urged dear R. D. Webb to make us a visit, and feel quite sure it would give him unspeakable pleasure to do so, were it not for the expense. To all these friends I have given your



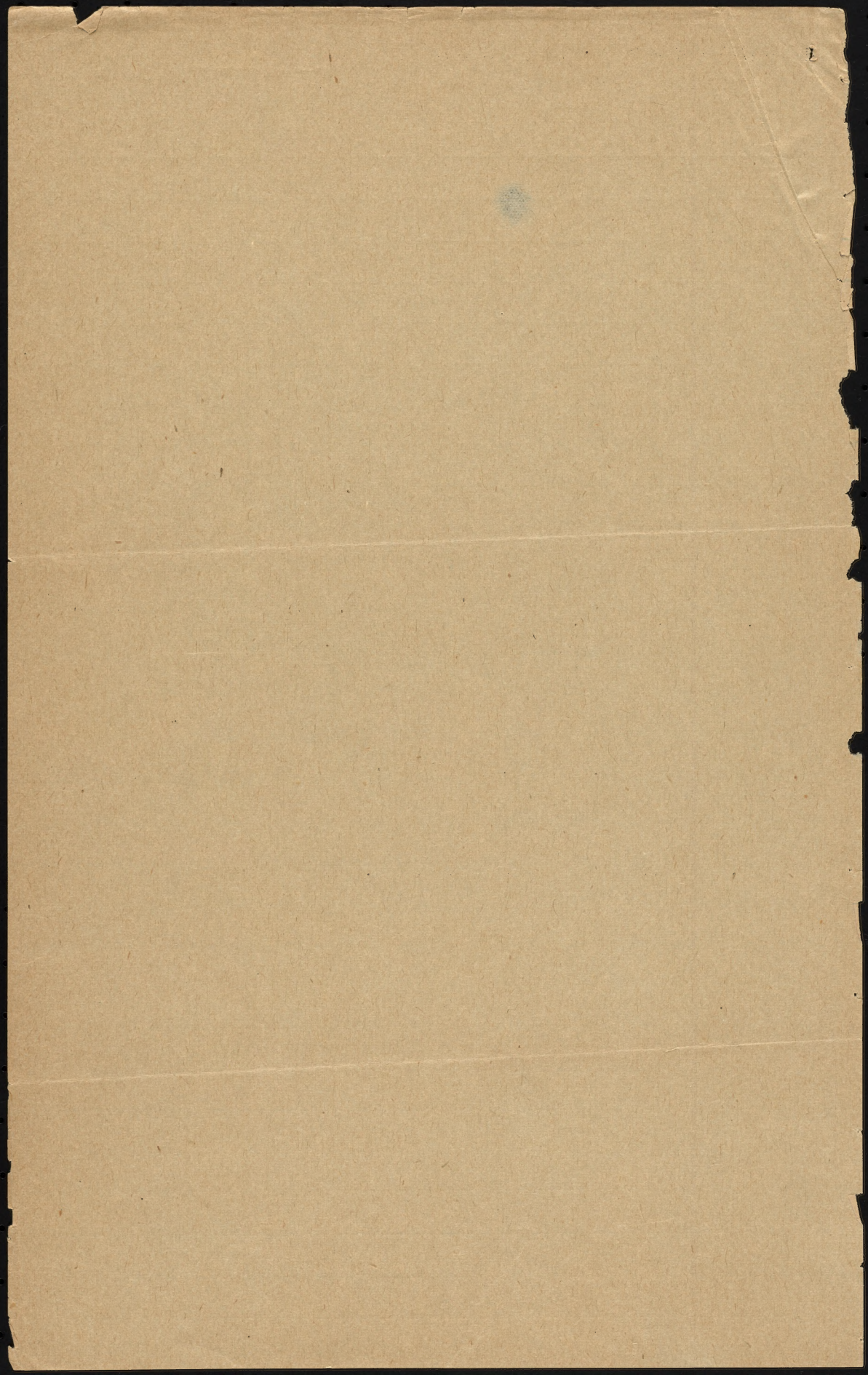
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loving regards, in accordance with your request. Would that you could have been with me!

I am postponing my trip to Switzerland ~~and~~ (with the children,) till after the Anti-Slavery Conference, which comes off on Monday and Tuesday next, 26th and 27th inst. Only two sessions will be given to the deliberations of that body. Probably there will be few delegates from organized bodies, but Mr. Chamberzow informs me that more than a hundred persons have signified their intention to be present. The part intended taking in its proceedings will be a very subordinate one, having reference chiefly to the cause of the American freedmen. ^{How we shall get along with different dialects,} I do not know; but they will greatly abridge the freedom of intercommunication. Here, for instance, I am in a city with nearly two millions of inhabitants, with not one of whom can I intelligibly carry on any conversation, — an exceptional case, like that of Prof. Laboulaye, being very rare. Even he, though accurate, is a good deal fettered and limited in his English speech.

Mr. Villard is at present in Munich, administering aid and comfort to his father, now beyond hope of recovery, though he may continue a while longer.

We spent last evening very pleasantly with our old anti-slavery friends, Sarah and Rebecca Bradford, of Roxbury. They have been residing for a year in the south of France and in Switzerland, accompanied by their brother. Sarah will sail for



New York in a Horse steamer on the 4th of September, leaving Rebecca behind for another year, with reference to her health.

There have been very many Americans in Paris this summer, and they are still coming: Senator Doolittle is here, and Hon. Moses Kimball and family, of Boston. Also, Col. McKay of New York.

You can imagine how chagrined I was at the reception of Andy Johnson in Boston. He is still headstrong and defiant as against Congress, and ought to have been impeached and removed long ago.

I get good news as to the state of my dear wife's health. Trusting that all is going well with you at home, and sending our united regards to your wife and children, and to your venerable father and mother, I remain,

Affectionately yours,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. Samuel May, Jr.

- ☐ My present calculation is, to leave Liverpool for Boston on the 26th of October.
- ☐ When I go to Birmingham in October, I will endeavor without fail to see Mr. Goddard.

